

REMARKS

Introduction

Claims 1, 5-8, 11, 15-18 and 21 have been amended. Claims 3 and 13 have been cancelled. The application now includes claims 1, 5-11 and 15-21.

Reconsideration of the rejection of the application is respectfully requested in view of the claim amendments and the following remarks.

Applicants thank the Examiner for taking the time to conduct a personal interview with the Applicants' representative on January 21, 2010. The substance of the interview is reflected in this Amendment. Reconsideration of the rejection of the application is respectfully requested in view of the claim amendments and the following remarks.

The Claims are Allowable at least because the Prior Art Fails to Disclose Cell-Based Data Processing in which a Specification includes a Plurality of Interlocking Cells

Claims 1-21 and 25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over "XML Path language (XPath)" and "XSL Transformation (XSLT) Version 1.0 (W3C Recommendation 16 November 1999) in view of Renner et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,993,657, "Renner"). Reconsideration of this rejection is respectfully requested at least because the prior art fails to disclose cell-based data processing in which a specification includes a plurality of interlocking cells.

Embodiments of the present invention provide a novel structure of formatting computer code that will be executed by a computer to provide ease of use in the computer programming environment. The structure includes a single sheet with a number of discrete cells, each delineated by a beginning and ending tag. The cells are

interlocked because either an attribute or formula of a cell may reference another cell.

This novel structure simplifies software development.

Specifically, one embodiment of the present invention is a computer-implemented method of cell-based data processing in that the computer code is formatted as discrete code “cells”. U.S. Pat. Pub. No. 2002/0133808 (publication of the present application), Abstract. A data processing specification or “x-sheet” 102 includes a plurality of cells or “x-cells” 104. *See id.* at ¶ [0019]. Each cell includes a formula specifying an action or computation to perform when the cell is executed, and one or more attributes referencing other cells. *See id.* Further, each cell is delineated by a beginning and ending tag, and one of the cells is reserved as an output cell for outputting a result of the processing. *See id.* at ¶ [0023]. An execution analyzer 122 parses the specification to determine an interdependency of the plurality of cells, and generates and stores a directed graph of the interdependency as an execution flow. *See id.* at ¶¶ [0068] - [0069]. An execution engine 124 then executes the specification in accordance with the execution flow by evaluating the formula of each cell in the execution flow. *See id.* at ¶ [0072].

Each of the cells in one embodiment are interlocked via either that cell’s formula, which can reference values of other cells, or via a special “use” attribute that can reference other cells. *See id.* at ¶ [0025]. By breaking the computer code into discrete cells that are interlocked with each other, developing computer code is made more user friendly. *See id.* at ¶ [0007].

As discussed in the Amendment dated January 19, 2010, the cited prior art fails to disclose the discrete cell structure of the present invention. Because the prior art does not disclose discrete cell structures, it also fails to disclose interlocking cells. Further, without discrete cells, the cited prior art fails to provide motivation for using two methods in order to achieve the interlocking cells as does the present invention, namely through each cell's formula or attribute. Accordingly, the claims should be allowable over the cited art.

Conclusion

Applicants respectfully request favorable action in connection with this application.

The Examiner is invited and urged to contact the undersigned to discuss any matter concerning this application.

No fee should be required for this submission. Should any other fee be required, the Commissioner is authorized to charge any such fee to Counsel's Deposit Account 50-2222.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: January 22, 2010

/Barry S. Goldsmith/

Barry S. Goldsmith
Attorney for Applicants
Registration No. 39,690

Customer No. 74739
SQUIRE, SANDERS & DEMPSEY LLP
14TH Floor
8000 Towers Crescent Drive
Vienna, Virginia 22182-6212
Telephone: 703-720-7876
Fax: 703-720-7802